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COUNTRY <u>Eastern Germany</u>	REPORT NO. [REDACTED]	25X1
TOPIC <u>Estimate of the European Situation by the Chief of the Tass Agency in Vienna.</u>		
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The chief of the Tass agency in Vienna expressed the belief that Western Germany and France were of much greater political importance than all other countries in Europe. He commented with irony on the front page display which newspapers in Europe gave to the recent incidents in Scandinavia. He voiced the opinion that they affected only a theater of secondary importance and would not alter Sweden's political attitude. He also considered Italy as of only secondary importance in international affairs, especially as, in his opinion, Italy was almost neutralized because of the strength of her left-wing parties. He admitted that pro-American groups became stronger in France, but stated that this was possible only by way of pressure. He felt that the French left-wing opposition constituted a heavy strain on the position of the NATO and expressed the belief that the situation in France was unstable. He argued that it was impossible to eliminate the French Communists by putting all their leaders in jail. As to Western Germany he said that by signing the contractual agreement, Adenauer obtained a Pyrrhic victory and became subject to heavy criticism in Western Germany. Only through fear of being taken in tow by the Communists did the Social Democrats not launch a mass movement which might result in an overthrow of the Bonn Government. The chief of the Tass agency made it clear that the special plenipotentiaries of the SED are the actual leaders of the KPD in Western Germany, rather than the left-wing radicals. He said that he did not know exactly how the various functions were assigned at present, but stated that persons such as Walter Ulbricht, Franz Dohlem and Rudolf Herrnstadt would strongly influence the future development of the German problem. He finally stated that it was worth noting that no strong right-wing party after the fashion of the French or Italian right-wing parties had been formed in Western Germany to date and added that this made it possible to combine the national conception of the unity of Germany with the social opposition of the laborers, unemployed and refugees under Communist leadership.

* [REDACTED] Comment. Herrnstadt has not as yet been given a more prominent assignment by the SED in conjunction with the German problem. His name has recently been mentioned only rarely in public. However, there is no doubt that as a candidate for the Politbureau and editor-in-chief of the newspaper, Neues Deutschland, he is one of the most influential SED members.

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